



# Lynch Hill School Primary Academy Newsletter



Issue: 37

*Aim High, Work Hard, Care Deeply*

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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## A message from the Chair of Governors, Denise Fletcher

On behalf of the governing body, I would like to say thank you to all of our fabulous pupils and their parents for their continued hard work and support, whether it has been in school or at home. A very big 'WELL DONE' to you all.

Also, a big thank you to our fantastic staff who have helped to steer LHSPA through these recent very challenging times. They have been relentless in their commitment, dedication and hard work.

Last but not least, a massive thank you to Mrs Tomlinson, who certainly got thrown in at the deep end in her first year of headship and to our superb SLT who have had an incredibly hard task to pull everything together and they have done it with style. So thank you to all of you.

We hope you all enjoy the summer holidays and have a well-deserved break and we very much look forward to welcoming you all back in the Autumn term with all the new 'normal' procedures in place.

With very best wishes for continued good health.

*Denise Fletcher*  
Chair of Governors



## Important Information from Mrs Tomlinson

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have finally reached the end of what has probably been the most challenging academic year schools have ever faced and whilst I want staff to enjoy a break and time away from school, the planning for September is never far from any of our minds.

In last week's newsletter, I shared some initial responses to some of the questions we have been asked over the last few weeks. I am sharing them again and adding to them as our plans continue to take shape. I hope the following will be useful to you. Please do be mindful that some of the responses could be subject to change over the course of the summer as new information is released by the government.

### **How will my child be supported with transition and the induction back into school?**

We understand that many children will feel anxious about returning to school and to a new year group after such a long time. Although some children have been in the fortunate position of being able to take up the offer of some 'keeping in touch' sessions over the last few weeks, many have not. To support the children, each year group have put together a presentation that provides lots of information and exciting details about your child's forthcoming year and the teachers have also recorded welcome messages. These can be accessed on our school website under the 'Returning to School' tab. We strongly recommend that you spend time viewing these together with your child.

Once in school, our immediate focus will be on settling the children and promoting positive mental health and pupil wellbeing. We are busily planning a supportive curriculum that will aim to promote and instil resilience and, of course, we have so many skilled staff at this school who are able to graduate our support and response as necessary.

### **Will the school start and end times be as normal for my children?**

With the government expecting all children to return to school, we are mindful of just how many children and parents will be entering the school site and so it is going to be safer to stagger the start and end times for each year group. We

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understand that this may be inconvenient but we must prioritise safety. The timings are now given below and will be reviewed regularly.

Year Groups	Start of Day	End of Day	Where to enter and exit
Nursery am	8:30am	11:30am	Nursery gate Please refer back to letter regarding staggered starts
Nursery pm	12:30pm	3:30pm	Nursery gate Please refer back to letter regarding staggered starts
Reception	9:00am	3:00pm *	RD and RP through the wooden gate by RD's classroom RB and RK via the Reception pathway *Please refer back to letter regarding staggered start from 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 1	8:30am	2:40pm	Enter via the main drive and exit following the one-way system
Year 2	8:50am	3:00pm	Enter via the main drive and exit following the one-way system
Year 3	9:10am	3:20pm	Enter via the main drive and exit following the one-way system
Year 4	9:10am	3:20pm	Pupils to enter via the KS2 pedestrian path. <b>No parents allowed. At end of day, staff will escort pupils up the path to meet parents.</b>
Year 5	8:50am	3:00pm	Pupils to enter via the KS2 pedestrian path. <b>No parents allowed. At end of day, staff will escort pupils up the path to meet parents.</b>
Year 6	8:30am	2:40pm	Pupils to enter via the KS2 pedestrian path. <b>No parents allowed. At end of day, staff will escort pupils up the path to meet parents.</b>

### **I have a number of children in the school with staggered start times and finish times. How will I manage?**

The current starting and close times given will be reviewed regularly and it is our aim to get back to our normal timetable as soon as it is safe to do so. Breakfast club will run each day from 8am until the start of the school day for each specific year group.

With respect to the end of the day, please speak to the year leader for your specific children. We will work together to provide supervision until the latest time for dismissal for your children. Any parent who is unable to collect their children by the latest end of day time (3.20pm), will need to apply for Funzone (paid) provision. For example, if you have a child in Year 1 (dismissed by 2.40) and a Year 4 child (dismissed at 3.20), the Year 1 child will be supervised until 3.20 if that is what is needed. Those children who are waiting in the year group for their parent or to go to Funzone will be expected to complete their homework during this time.

### **You have mentioned a Breakfast Club provision. Tell me more about how this will work.**

As mentioned above, we will operate a Breakfast club provision for each year group. Each year group's breakfast club will be based within their unit (serving a suitable menu that can be eaten in classrooms). Regardless of the staggered start times for the start of the school day for each year group, these clubs will run from 8am. This is to support those parents who need to get to work promptly. At this time in the morning, the children attending Breakfast club (regardless of year group) should enter the school site via the main drive. A breakfast menu will be made available to view on the website. The cost of Breakfast club will be confirmed before the start of term and payment for this should be made via SchoolMoney. Staff will not accept money at the door.

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## **My child has previously ridden their bike or scooter to school and parked it in the designated areas. Will this still be permitted?**

No. Unfortunately, we will not be allowing for bikes and scooters to be parked on site when pupils return in September. This is because this could involve children from different year groups mixing and the parking of these will interfere with the flow of our one-way system already in place and will inevitably lead to unnecessary queuing. Of course, children, can still ride to the school entrance as long as parents/carers take the bike or scooter home again. We will review this regularly and update you accordingly.

## **Even with staggered start and end times, there will still be a lot of human traffic at the school entrances. How will this be managed?**

It is vitally important that you work in partnership with us to minimise risk and to keep everyone safe. We expect you, as adults, to be responsible and not crowd the entrances and to only move forward when you can do so whilst maintaining a 1m+ distance from other families who are entering or exiting the school site. Patience and mutual respect are key. Staff will be at entrances to support.

## **How will my child be taught and interact with other children?**

Lynch Hill are following the government guidance which states that the school can operate with 'bubbles' of up to 240 children. However, looking at our school, in particular, we have made the following decisions regarding our teaching:

- Children will be taught core lessons in their class bubbles for at least the first half term. The reason behind this decision is to ensure a strong bond is formed with their register teacher. The child's well-being is at the forethought of this decision.
- Breaks, lunchtimes, Breakfast clubs and activity-based after school clubs will be in year groups.
- Fun zone will be in phased groups, still not exceeding the allotted 240 child bubble. This is a provision we are unable to provide in smaller groupings.

## **How will the school differentiate learning in order to ensure good progress and attainment for all children, bridging gaps in the children's learning from time away from school whilst continuing to challenge and consolidate those who left the school with a secure subject knowledge?**

We will plan on the basis of the educational needs of the pupils: curriculum planning will be informed by an assessment of the pupil's starting points and will address the gaps in their knowledge and skills. We will, in particular, make effective use of the regular formative assessment such as quizzes, observing pupils in class and scrutiny of pupil's work.

## **Will the children be wearing uniform?**

Yes, we will be expecting the children to return to school in school uniform for the new school year. In line with the guidance, we would ask that children are wearing clean uniform to school each day. They should also have the correct PE kit for their PE lessons too. You will be able to refer to the school handbook and website for information on our school uniform.

## **If changing rooms cannot be used for different year group bubbles, how will my child get changed for PE?**

To begin with, we will inform you of the days your child has PE and ask that on those days, your child arrives in school wearing their PE kit. They will then remain in their kit for the day. If the PE lesson is an indoor lesson, and the weather is inclement on the way to school, they should arrive with jogging bottoms over the top of their PE shorts.

## **Does my child have to complete homework this year?**

Homework will still be sent home. Phil Bear and Active Movement puppies from Nursery will still go home too. They will be washed weekly! We ask you to discourage your child from sleeping with them in their bed.

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## **Will my child need to wear a mask to school?**

As of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the government are advising that school children and staff do not need to wear PPE when carrying out normal school duties. If this changes, you will be updated via the school newsletter and email. If you and your child are travelling to school on public transport then you must be following the guidance for this.

## **Can my child bring in a packed lunch from home?**

Yes, we will be allowing the children to bring in packed lunches and school bags. Pupils in KS2 may also bring in a pencil case but they will be asked not to share their stationery and resources.

In order to minimise risk and limit interaction between different bubbles, pupils from Y2-6 will eat lunch in their classrooms. After eating, the tables will be cleaned whilst the children are outside playing. With pupils eating in classrooms, the school kitchen will be unable to serve hot food and so those entitled to a free school meal or wishing to purchase a school lunch will be offered a picnic style lunch. The menu is available to view on the school website:

<https://www.lhsprimaryacademy.org.uk/parents/menu>

## **Will a breaktime service operate as it has done in previous years?**

No. At the moment, we will be unable to offer a breaktime service. However, we recognise that some pupils may be in need of a snack mid-morning and are happy to allow children to bring in a piece of fruit from home. We will not allow children to snack on biscuits or crisps during breaktime. Please note that pupils in EYFS have access to fruit and milk during their time in school.

## **Will clubs operate?**

Clubs will be offered to pupils after school during the Autumn term but in order to adhere to government guidance they will be offered to specific year groups and will not be open to entire key stages. For example, a football club on a Monday afternoon might only be open to year 3 pupils, with another club on Tuesday just for year 4.

Our Extended Nursery will operate from September as will Funzone and parents will be contacted directly regarding these.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support across this year. A strong partnership between home and school is vital if children are going to succeed and I am grateful that so many of you continue to work closely with us regarding every aspect of school life. I wish you all well and hope that you have a safe and enjoyable summer. I wish our Y6 pupils the very best start to their secondary school journey and look forward to welcoming the rest of you back to Lynch Hill in September.

*Lindsey Tomlinson*

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## **Thankyou Gifts & Cards**

Some parents have asked if they could show their appreciation by donating to the school. This is not necessary as we are only too aware of how families have been affected financially during this pandemic. However, for those who wish to, there is a 'donations' tab in the 'shop' area of SchoolMoney. There are options of £2, £5 and £10 and you can do multiples of each amount. We are extremely grateful to those parents who have already donated – thank you!

## **Britwell Churches Support Hub**

The leaders of the various churches have arranged for bread to be made available for collection from St. George's Church on a Tuesday and Thursday between 9.30 and 10.00 am during the holiday.

## **Handwashing advice from the Government**

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

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